

Regular Meeting

June 7, 2004

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 7, 2004 at 6:00pm in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

Present: Louis Belfield, Ralph Cole, Jerry Downum, Wayne Goodwin, George Jones, Harry Lee Winslow.

Absent: Jimmy Alligood.

Chairman Belfield called the meeting to order and Commissioner Cole presented the invocation.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jones made a motion that the Consent Agenda, including the minutes and the following budget amendments and tax releases, be approved.

ayes 6

no 0

Budget Amendments

Register of Deeds	4180	increase	\$4013	transfer from reserve fund to purchase scanner
DSS	5352	increase	\$12000	Medicaid Transp Fund

Tax Releases

JR Dillard	\$203.14	vehicle turned in
VL Eason	\$153.77	listed in Gates Co

Eden Meadows Subdivision

Planner Elizabeth Bryant presented a final plat for the Eden Meadows Subdivision, owned by Waldo Winslow, for the Board's consideration. Power lines are installed underground, a six-inch water main and asphalt roads are also in place. Mr. Winslow plans to build homes in the \$130,000 to \$170,000 range of 14,000 sf and 17,000 sf, single and two-story models. Septic tanks will be utilized and a buffer on the Highway 32 side is already in place.

Commissioner Winslow abstained from voting due to his family connection with the owner.

Commissioner Cole made a motion that the 17-lot subdivision located off Brayhall be approved.

ayes 5

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Bids for Generators for Water System

Advertisement was made and bids received to install generators in the Water System to protect against power failure. Engineer Bill Diehl presented bids as follows:

Alexander Electric \$339,730

DL Teasley \$288,000 low bidder

Including some realignment of overhead power lines and installing

underground and other expenses to the project, the total project is \$343,522.

By motion of Commissioner Goodwin, the Board approved the low bidder, DL Teasley contract, and the additional expenses for the project of \$343,522.

ayes 6

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Mr. Diehl also reported that since the generator project cannot be completed for the hurricane season this year, a contract with Gregory Poole Equipment Company for standby generators has been negotiated. This contract includes a 400 KW generator for the water plant and 225 KW generator for Well #9 for the period from June 1 through November 30, 2004.

This is a temporary safeguard while the permanent system is being installed. Mr. Diehl has also prepared a grant application to the NC Rural Center for \$400,000 to assist the County to provide generators at each of the five well sites.

Commissioner Downum made a motion that the Gregory Poole Contract and the NC Rural Center grant application be approved. Commissioner Downum's motion included approval of the following resolutions to be included in the application.

ayes 6

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Resolution

WHEREAS, Chowan County has applied to The Rural Center for assistance in the upgrade of the electrical systems at the well sites of the Chowan County Water System; and,

WHEREAS, an appointed authorized signer for this project must be designated.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby appoint the County Manager to serve as the authorized signer for this project, Well Electrical Improvements FY 2004-05, Rd. 1 Supplemental Grant Application.

Adopted today, June 7, 2004, by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Resolution

Minority Business Goal

Well Sites Electrical Improvements

Supplemental Grant Application

North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, Inc.

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143-128 requires that Public Contracts for State, or any County or other public body have established procedures for Minority Business Participation; and,

WHEREAS, Chowan County has applied to the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., for assistance to improve the

electrical system to the Water System well sites for the installation of generator service to protect the Water System in the case of electric power failure; and,

WHEREAS, Chowan County supports Minority Business Participation in the contract work for the Well Sites Electrical Improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners:

That the County supports the intent and reporting requirements for contracts into which it enters per NCGS 143-128.

That the County shall award contracts for the Well Sites Electrical Improvements Project without regard to race, religion, color, creed, national origin, sex, age or handicapping condition, as defined in NCGS 168A-3.

That the County will require the awarding authority to take action to insure a good faith effort in the recruitment and selection of minority businesses for participation in contracts awarded.

That the County shall require a five percent (5%) goal for participation by minority businesses in the publicly bid construction contracts for the Well Sites Electrical Improvements Project.

Adopted today, June 7, 2004.
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Hospital Directors' Council

By motion of Commissioner Downum, Dr. Cris Reynolds was recommended to replace Dr. Joe Haskett for membership to the Hospital Directors' Council. Dr. Haskett elected not to seek reappointment.

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Planning Board Appointments

Commissioner Winslow made a motion that Roger Spivey, Lia McDaniel and Craig Blanchard be reappointed to the County Planning Board. These members were asked to continue serving so that they might complete the revision study to the County ordinances which is in progress.

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Community Development Block Grant Application

Documents including: Citizen Participation Compliance Procedure, a revised Fair Housing Plan, a Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of Optional Relocation Coverage, Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, a Code of Conduct Governing Chowan County Employees and Elected Officials, Local Economic Benefit for Low and Very Low Income Persons Plan, Equal Employment and Procurement Plan, and a Procurement Policy, were approved for execution by the Chairman, by

motion of Commissioner Winslow.

ayes 6

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Inter-County Public Transportation Authority Termination

The Department of Transportation, a major funding source for the Inter-County Public Transportation Authority, recommended that the separate authority be terminated and the Inter-County Transportation Authority come under the umbrella of the Albemarle Regional Health Services administration. All five counties comprising the Authority must agree to this transfer of responsibility by resolution.

By motion of Commissioner Winslow, the appropriate resolutions as presented by the Inter-County Public Transportation Authority and the Albemarle Regional Health Services, were approved.

ayes 6

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County Insurance

The staff recommended that the County purchase property and liability coverage through the Association of County Commissioners Risk Management Pool again this year. Premiums came in at and below last year's numbers. By motion of Commissioner Goodwin, the Chairman was authorized to execute the required documents.

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Schedule July Meeting

Due to the July 4 holiday falling on Monday, July 5, Commissioner Winslow made a motion that the Commissioners meeting be scheduled for July 12 at 9:00a.m.

ayes 6

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Schedule Meeting for NCDOT Secondary Roads Program

Commissioner Jones moved that the Commissioners schedule a meeting with the NCDOT to present the Secondary Roads Program at the July 12 meeting at 9:00a.m.

ayes 6

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Resolution and Agreement for Deposit Account with RBC Centura

Commissioner Winslow made a motion that the County approve a Resolution and Agreement for Deposit Account with RBC Centura as presented by RBC Centura, authorizing representatives to sign for the County as follows:

C. Louis Belfield, Chairman

Luther C. Copeland, County Manager, Finance Officer

Lisa S. Jones, Asst Finance Officer

Kim B. Smith, Accounting Technician

ayes 6

no 0

Coastal Resources Commission Nominations

A letter from the Governor's Office requesting nominations from Chowan County for appointments on the Coastal Resources Commission was presented. There being no additional names submitted, the Clerk was instructed to return a letter supporting the appointments in place.

Resolution Urging Stronger Penalties for Offenders that Sell and Manufacture Methamphetamine in North Carolina

A resolution and a letter soliciting support of the resolution was presented urging stronger penalties for offenders that sell and manufacture methamphetamine in North Carolina. The resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Jones.

ayes 6

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the use, sale and manufacture of methamphetamine is becoming more evident in North Carolina and,

WHEREAS, the operation of manufacturing methamphetamine poses extreme danger, not only to children who may inhabit the premises, but to law enforcement officers and firemen who may be called to the scene; and,

WHEREAS, the availability of methamphetamine drugs needs to be completely eradicated through all means possible.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina Legislature to adopt laws that impose stronger penalties for offenders who operate clandestine methamphetamine labs, and for the sale and/or offer for sale of methamphetamine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County requests the Legislature to provide adequate state and federal funding for law enforcement agencies as a top priority, and that fire departments have grants and other sources available in order to maintain the necessary equipment for dealing with the dangers posed by methamphetamine labs.

Adopted today, June 7, 2004.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Resolution in Support of Actions to Create and Maintain Jobs in North Carolina

A resolution requesting that the Legislature assist rural counties to identify job creation measures was approved by motion of Commissioner Downum.

ayes 6

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Resolution

WHEREAS, North Carolina counties are allowed little, if any, leeway in the arena of incentives by the State of North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, the William Lee Act is inflexible to help counties which suddenly experience an extreme change in unemployment due to outsourcing

of jobs to other countries; and,

WHEREAS, unemployment benefits have now expired for many North Carolinians; and,

WHEREAS, many counties will never see the return of those out sourced jobs; and,

WHEREAS, adjoining states have established incentives that have placed North Carolina counties in a uncompetitive position; and,

WHEREAS, these jobs which have been lost to neighboring states have created multi-layered multipliers in jobs/incomes for those states; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina must do more than simply catch up to compete for those companies which are expanding and growing; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina is no longer known as a corporate-friendly state due to higher corporate taxes and an extremely complex web of environmental and other rules which cause desirable companies to locate/relocate to other states.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chowan County Board of Commissioners requests the North Carolina General Assembly to implement changes to relieve high unemployment by designing and developing incentive programs necessary for North Carolina to become a corporate-friendly state which will create jobs for the citizens of North Carolina.

Adopted today, June 7, 2004.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Healthy North Carolina Month

By motion of Commissioner Jones, Chowan County agreed to participate in Governor Easley's declaration of designating September as "Healthy North Carolina Month". Employee health screenings will be conducted that month as well as some other activities being planned to promote wellness.

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North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Award

The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund has awarded Chowan County a grant of \$85,140 to assist in funding the D.F. Walker Community Center rehabilitation project. This project includes replacement of the gym floor, new lighting and bleachers. Commissioner Cole made a motion that the grant be accepted.

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Storm Recovery Update

Pre-Event Planning

Peter Rascoe explained the pre-event disaster recovery assistance contract recommended by the state, whereby the county contracts with a debris removal contractor prior to any storm approach. Benefits to be realized include: preparation ahead of any storm by the County as well as the contractor being prepared with subcontractors and equipment. A prime and alternate contractor is identified during the bid process. A performance bond is required from the contractor. Bids are being solicited by the County at this time.

Roofs at DF Walker Community Center, the library and Swain are under repair from the storm at this time.

Budget Presentation

County Manager Cliff Copeland presented the proposed 2004-05 budget including:

- * no growth in the tax base, storm damage equaled out any increases. As damaged property is rebuilt, values will be re-listed.
- * interest income is down
- * delinquent tax collection is down because the Tax Office has collected most of the outstanding taxes
- * State/Federal COPS funding is reduced by \$34,000
- * jail fees from the State have been reduced by \$100,000
- * Medicaid expenses are increased by \$100,000
- * an increase in the cost of hospital insurance of 5%
- * schools-current expense allocation increase of 2 1/2%
- * a General Fund contribution to the EMS fund of \$135,000 to increase personnel for night coverage
- * a 2% cost of living for employees
- * capital outlay items include sheriff's vehicles, GIS, software for GIS, Walker Community Center repairs/renovations
- * a 3% reduction in the total budget to \$14,781,000
- * a tax rate increase of \$.05/\$100 value, from \$.69/\$100 to \$.74/\$100. * an increase in water rates - Even though steps have been taken to raise revenue for a capital outlay reserve, the current II storm preparedness II charge is not enough to maintain the system (additional needs include additional water mains and updated backwash capacity). The basic rate for the first 2000 gallons of \$9 will remain the same; the price of the number of gallons over 2000 will be \$3.25/1000 gallons. The cost to the county to provide water is \$2.66/1000 gallons; the difference between the \$2.66 and the \$3.25 will be placed in the capital outlay reserve.

Mr. Copeland stated that the County is at the place where it must decide if it will spend its reserves to operate or if it will raise taxes for operations. The tax rate has not been changed or increased since revaluation in 1998.

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion that the County schedule a public hearing to receive comment on the proposed budget June 21 at 6:00p.m.
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Auction of County Surplus Property

Commissioner Winslow made a motion to authorize the County staff to conduct an auction of surplus property. The auction will be held June 25 at the EMS building.
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no 0

Public Comment

None offered.

Manager's Report

Presented in budget remarks.
The meeting was adjourned.
Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk